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United Nations Institute for Training and Research



Geneva Centre for Security Policy  
Centre de Politique de Sécurité, Genève  
Genfer Zentrum für Sicherheitspolitik



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# Comprehensive and whole-of-government approaches to post-conflict situations (stabilisation, peacebuilding and recovery)

## Seminar

### INFORMATION NOTE

New York, 24 October, 2008

#### Background

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In recent years, demands for comprehensive and integrated approaches to post-conflict stabilization, peacebuilding and recovery have proliferated. In March 2005, the Secretary-General's Report *In Larger Freedom* urged the world community to respond to the interconnected challenges of development, security and the protection of human rights. At the World Summit in October 2005, the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission was established as an advisory body on "integrated strategies for post-conflict recovery". In 2006, the report of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on System-wide Coherence entitled *Delivering as One*, called for greater harmonization and synergy between UN entities engaged in humanitarian, development or environmental work. Recurring themes in these efforts have been the need for increased integration and cooperation, as well as for the harmonization of fragmented mandates and operating practices.

Alongside developments toward integrated approaches within the UN system, similar initiatives have stemmed from major donors, as well as international and regional bodies. Driven by growing policy consensus that integrated planning and action are crucial for addressing the needs of post-conflict societies, and for preventing their relapse into violent conflict, national efforts for inter-ministerial and -departmental coordination to concurrently address development, security and governance concerns have built considerable momentum.

Nonetheless, practical challenges in the attainment of greater coherence and integration remain. Moreover, a range of Member States, humanitarian organizations and civil society groups continue to voice their concerns regarding the impact of greater harmonization and integration between humanitarian, political and military realms.

In view of the complex practical and conceptual issues raised by these comprehensive and whole-of-government approaches to post-conflict settings, this seminar creates a forum for sharing different perspectives on these contested issues, including questions of terminology, accountability and impact assessment. Convening Government and United Nations officials, practitioners, and diplomats from Permanent Missions in New York, it seeks to raise awareness of the application of such approaches to questions of stabilisation, peacebuilding, and recovery, and to discuss the most effective modalities of doing so.



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## Objectives

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The seminar is intended to:

- Stimulate dialogue within the UN community around the utility of pursuing coherence and integration in the UN's peacekeeping, post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery work;
- Raise awareness regarding the current status of integrated approaches to post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding;
- Explore the relationship between national and international whole-of-government and comprehensive approaches;
- Examine case studies to exchange experiences and identify knowledge, skills and lessons learned from past and/or present integrated frameworks and planning processes;
- Discuss criteria and practices for the evaluation of comprehensive and whole-of-government approaches,
- Identify appropriate training measures to develop capacity for integrated planning and delivery;
- Create an enabling environment for reflection and collaboration on coherence and integration initiatives.

## Organization

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This one-day event will consist of four sessions, addressing the following thematic areas:

### ***1. The United Nations and the Comprehensive Approach to Stabilization, Peacebuilding and Recovery: Overview of Institutional and Strategic Developments***

Giving the stage to key actors involved in the conceptualization and implementation of institutional and strategic developments, this session provides an overview of the origins of and developments surrounding the issues under consideration in this briefing.

### ***2. Country Applications and Case Studies:***

This session provides, in two parts, a platform for the comparative examination of case studies in which comprehensive and integrated approaches have been implemented under the leadership of different entities. It brings together a range of perspectives on the issues surrounding strategic frameworks, ownership and mutual accountability.

### ***3. Whole-of-Government and UN Integrated Approaches: What can be learnt from national experiences?***

This session brings together Government representatives from countries piloting whole-of-government approaches at the national level with United Nations representatives to discuss the challenges of integrated planning methods and techniques, as well as integrated financing.

### ***4. Measuring Success – developing guidance: evaluation and development of the comprehensive and whole-of-government approaches.***

This session is designed to examine key challenges and current and future initiatives in the development of comprehensive and whole-of-government approaches, including evaluation criteria, training and capacity development needs, and the processing of lessons learned.

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## Participants

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The briefing is targeted towards delegates at Permanent Missions in New York responsible for Security Council matters, the Peacebuilding Commission and/or issues pertaining to peacekeeping, recovery and post-conflict reconstruction. UN staff and representatives of civil society are also welcome to attend. UNITAR reserves the right to make the final selection of participants on a "first-come first-served" basis.

## Date and Venue

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The briefing will take place on

***Friday, 24 October 2008, from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm at the Office of the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, 305 East 47th Street, 5th Floor.***

## Registration

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Applicants who wish to participate in this seminar are requested to complete the attached registration form and return it to:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNITAR c/o Ms. Sarah Rosengärtner</b> Fax: (212) 963-9686 or 0995, E-mail: <a href="mailto:rosengaertner@un.org">rosengaertner@un.org</a></p>
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